

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of picking a sheet from a stack of sheets, comprising:

- (a) engaging an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets with a movable engaging portion, wherein the movable engaging portion is in supporting connection with and movable relative to a rotatable picking member, wherein the picking member generally rotates about a first axis;
- (b) rotating the picking member about the first axis in a picking direction with the engaging portion in engagement with the end sheet, ~~wherein the engaging portion generally does not move radially relative to the end sheet as the end sheet moves relative to the stack;~~
- (c) during execution of step (b) moving the engaging portion radially outward relative to the first axis as the picking member moves relative to the engaging portion, wherein additional force tending to move the end sheet from the stack is applied with increasing radially outward movement of the engaging portion,

wherein the picking member is rotatable about the first axis in moving the end sheet from the stack, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein (c) includes rotating the picker member about the first axis and pivoting the engaging portion about the second axis.

2-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c) the engaging portion moves radially outward responsive to angular movement of the picking member in the picking direction exceeding angular movement of the engaging portion in the picking direction~~

Apparatus comprising:

a sheet engaging member operatively connected to a rotatable sheet picking member,

wherein the sheet engaging member is bounded by an outermost outer surface portion and a remaining outer surface portion,

wherein the outermost outer surface portion comprises a sheet engaging surface of high friction relative to the remaining outer surface portion,

wherein the outermost outer surface portion is movable radially outwardly relative to the picking member to engage an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets,

wherein the picking member is operative to move in a rotating direction about an axis to cause picking of the end sheet from the stack.

39. (currently amended) The apparatus method according to claim 38 wherein ~~in step (c) the engaging portion moves further radially outward responsive to an increasing difference between angular movement of the picking member and the angular movement of the engaging portion~~ the outermost outer surface comprises an arcuate outer surface portion.

40. (currently amended) The apparatus method according to claim 38 ~~† wherein the picking member comprises a generally cylindrical portion, and wherein the engaging portion includes a generally arcuate segment of the cylindrical portion, and wherein in step (c) the arcuate segment moves radially outward~~ and further comprising an automated teller machine (“ATM”), wherein the ATM includes a stack of currency sheets, wherein the ATM includes the picking member and

sheet engaging member, and wherein the picking member is operative to move in a rotating direction to cause picking of an end currency sheet from the stack of currency sheets.

41. (currently amended) A method of picking a sheet from a stack of sheets, comprising:

- (a) engaging an end sheet bounding the stack with an engaging member ~~portion~~ operatively connected to a picking member,

wherein the sheet engaging member is bounded by an outermost outer surface portion and a remaining outer surface portion,

wherein the outermost outer surface portion comprises a sheet engaging surface of high friction relative to the remaining outer surface portion,

wherein the outermost outer surface portion is movable radially outwardly relative to the picking member to engage an end sheet bounding the stack of sheets,

wherein the picking member is operative to move in a rotating direction about an axis to cause picking of the end sheet from the stack;

- (b) ~~moving applying increasing engaging force between the engaging portion and the end sheet responsive to the end sheet not moving relative to the stack responsive to movement of the picking member in the rotating direction with the sheet engaging member in engagement with the end sheet.~~

42. (currently amended) The method according to claim 41 wherein step (a) ~~(b)~~ comprises moving the engaging portion relative to the picking member to apply increased engaging force to the end note engaging a currency sheet bounding a stack of currency sheets.

43. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 42 and further comprising rotating the picking member about a first axis in a picking direction, and wherein step (b) comprises moving the engaging portion radially outward relative to the first axis~~

Apparatus comprising:

a sheet engaging member operatively connected to a rotatable cylindrical sheet picking member,

wherein the picking member comprises a circumferential outer surface having a first curvature,

wherein the sheet engaging member includes an arcuate end segment,

wherein the arcuate end segment comprises an outermost sheet engaging surface having a second curvature,

wherein the second curvature substantially matches the first curvature,

wherein the sheet engaging surface is movable, with the second curvature, radially outwardly relative to the picking member to engage an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets,

wherein the picking member is operative to rotate to cause picking of an end sheet from the stack.

44. (currently amended) The apparatus method according to claim 43 wherein ~~step (b) comprises moving the engaging portion radially outward responsive to angular movement of the picking member in the picking direction exceeding angular movement of the engaging portion in the~~

picking direction and further comprising an automated teller machine (“ATM”), wherein the ATM includes a currency sheet dispenser operative to dispense currency sheets, and wherein the currency sheet dispenser includes the picking member and sheet engaging member, wherein the sheet engaging surface is movable radially outwardly relative to the picking member to engage a currency sheet bounding a stack of currency sheets, and wherein the picking member is operative to rotate to cause picking of the currency sheet from the stack.

45. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising including the engaging portion operatively connected to the picking member and operative to carry out the method steps recited in claim 41

a sheet picking member,

wherein the picking member includes a rotatable member,

wherein the rotatable member is operative to rotate adjacent a stack of sheets,

wherein the picking member includes a movable member,

wherein the movable member is operative to move radially outward relative to the rotatable member,

wherein the movable member is operative to engage an end sheet initially bounding a stack and having a force level acting thereon,

wherein rotation of the rotatable member is operative to cause end sheet movement during engagement with the movable member,

wherein maximum radially outward extent of the movable member during the end sheet movement is force level dependent.

46. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the ~~engaging portion is movably mounted in supporting connection with the picking member~~ movable member is movable radially outwardly relative to the rotatable member to engage a currency sheet bounding a stack of currency sheets, and wherein the rotatable member is operative to rotate to cause picking of the currency sheet from the stack of currency sheets.

47. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~46~~ 45 and further comprising a an automated teller machine ("ATM"), wherein the ATM includes a stack of currency sheets adjacent the movable member, wherein the ~~movable member is movably mounted in supporting connection with the picking member wherein the engaging portion is in supporting connection with the movable member~~ rotatable member is operative to rotate to cause picking of an end currency sheet from the stack of currency sheets.

48. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising a rotatable sheet picking member and an engaging portion, wherein the picking member is rotatable about a first axis, wherein the engaging portion is operatively connected to the picking member, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, wherein the engaging portion is operative to engage an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets, wherein the picking member is operative to rotate about the first axis in picking the end sheet from the stack, wherein the engaging portion is operative to move radially outwardly relative to the end sheet to apply an increasing engaging force to the end sheet responsive to the end sheet not moving relative to the stack responsive to movement of the picking member.

49. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 48 ~~wherein the picking member is rotatable about a first axis, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein the picking member is operative to rotate about the first axis in picking the end sheet from the stack~~ and further comprising an automated teller machine ("ATM"), wherein the ATM includes a currency sheet dispenser operative to dispense currency sheets, and wherein the currency sheet dispenser includes the picking member and engaging portion.

50. (previously presented) A method of picking a sheet from a stack of sheets, comprising:

- (a) engaging an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets with a radially movable sheet engaging portion, wherein the engaging portion is in supporting connection with and movable relative to a rotatable sheet picker member,
- (b) rotating the picker member generally about an axis in a picking direction with the engaging portion in engagement with the end sheet,

(c) responsive to initial rotation of the picker member in attempting to pick the end sheet from the stack, either:

(c1) moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet, responsive to the end sheet not initially moving in coordinated relation with the rotating picker member, or

(c2) precluding radially outward movement of the engaging portion as the picker member rotates, responsive to the end sheet initially moving in coordinated relation with the rotating picker member.

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c1) includes moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet, responsive to the end sheet not moving at the same speed as the picker member.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c2) includes maintaining the engaging portion from moving radially outward as the picker member rotates, responsive to the end sheet moving at the same speed as the picker member.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c1) includes moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet as the picker member rotates.

54. (previously presented) The method according to claim 53 wherein (c1) includes applying increasing force on the end sheet with increasing radially outward movement of the engaging portion.

55. (previously presented) The method according to claim 50 wherein the picker member is rotatable about a first axis in moving the end sheet from the stack, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein (c1) includes pivoting the engaging portion about the second axis.